



## **Eastern Arizona Type II Incident Management Team**

### **North Taylor Fire**

**May 23, 2006 9:00 a.m.**

**Contacts: Jonetta Holt, Public Information Officer, 520-400-1007**  
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Acres: 117    Containment: 70%    Cause: Lightning    Personnel: 257  
Fire Crews: 5 {3 Type 1, 2 Type 2}    Helicopters: 3    Cost: \$517,400

#### **Gusty Winds, Horses and Mules**

Despite gusty winds on Monday, containment lines on the North Taylor fire, located 19 miles southwest of Safford in the Pinaleño Mountains of the Coronado National Forest, all held. On the east and southern flanks of the fire, winds actually assisted firefighters by consuming previously unburned vegetation further securing the fire's perimeter. All fire activity was on the interior.

The fire is burning in steep, rocky, inaccessible terrain at about 7000 feet elevation. Because wind conditions Monday grounded helicopters that were supporting suppression activities, a pack train of mules and horses was used to re-supply the line with food, water, medical supplies and sleeping bags.

Today firefighters will continue mop up, focusing their efforts on a corner of the fire that is retaining heat in pockets of heavy fuels. Helicopters will again be used to support fireline activities. Full containment is expected by 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Because helicopters will be taking water from Riggs Lake, the lake is closed to fishing until suppression activities are completed. Riggs Lake Campground remains open. Members of the public traveling Swift Trail (Highway 366) should exercise caution and maintain an appropriate speed in anticipation of heavy fire traffic.

Three firefighters suffered minor injuries; all received medical aid and have returned to their crews.

Fire managers began releasing hand crew personnel today.

For more information on fire restrictions throughout the southwest, please visit <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc>.

